

25 AUG 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Support (Pw) 25 AUG 1972

SUBJECT : Maurice H. Stans Award for Distinguished
Federal Financial Management

REFERENCE : Letter to Heads of All Executive, Legislative
and Judicial Departments and Establish-
ments from the Comptroller General of the
United States, dated 25 July 1972, Same
Subject (attached)

1. This memorandum transmits for your signature a letter to Mr. Bertram H. Rosen, Executive Secretary of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program.

2. Referent requested nominations for the second annual Maurice H. Stans Award for Distinguished Federal Financial Management. We queried the Office of Planning, Programming and Budgeting, the Office of Finance, and the Audit Staff regarding prospective candidates for this award but received no nominations.

3. It is recommended that you sign the attached letter to Mr. Rosen advising him that the Agency will not submit a candidate this year. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 15 September 1972.



Harry B. Fisher
Director of Personnel

STATINTL

Atts

The Washington Post

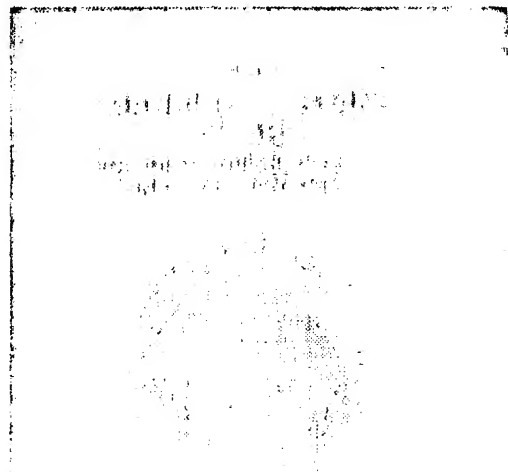
1 September 1972

To the Victor . . .

Why on earth should there be "snickering" (as was reported in the press yesterday) just because that time of year has rolled round again to make nominations for the Maurice H. Stans Award for Distinguished Federal Financial Management? We have studied with some care the brochure and agency notices describing the terms for winning this coveted federal government prize, and we are prepared to state that rarely in our experience have we known of a competition that more nearly captured the spirit of its benefactor. "For purposes of this award," the brochure declares, "the broadest reasonable interpretation will be given to the term 'financial management.'" That is surely as it should be in an award named for Mr. Stans—and so, surely, is the fact that "notably exceptional" financial feats along with "resourcefulness" are among the criteria for winning.

To be sure, the finicky may object that certain aspects of the Stans Award—perhaps its emphasis on achievement in the area of financial reporting—tend to cloud the issue. But these are nitpicks. The point is that the deadline for making entries is upon us, so that those with names to put into the contest had better be about it. For our part, we must pass. It's not that we can't think of any number of ex-CIA operatives, ex-White House aides, and ex-Cabinet members we might nominate for the prize. It's just that eligibility is evidently lim-

ed to current federal government employees. One way and another, most all our candidates have recently left.



Washington Evening Star

31 August 1972

THE STANS AWARD

Who's the Lucky....?

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star-News Staff Writer

It's that time of year again, when the search begins for the government employee whose "notable, exceptional accomplishments" make him or her the winner of the second annual Maurice H. Stans Award for Distinguished Federal Financial Management.

The notices announcing the competition are eliciting raised eyebrows and even snickers where reverence or, at the very least, boredom was the reaction last year.

The problem is that the man after whom the government-wide award is named now presides over the Finance Committee to Re-elect President Nixon, the financial affairs of which are the subject of a growing political controversy.

Nonetheless, the government is seeking a recipient whose "personal competence and leadership have resulted in notable, exceptional accomplishments in the application of effective financial management."

The official notice of the competition provides eight examples of type of high-quality fiscal management the award seeks to encourage. One example: "Conduct of an agency-wide analysis of cash management operations resulting in significant improvements in control, reporting and the setting of requirement levels."

Each government department and agency may nominate one full-time employee, with the winner to be selected by the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, an obscure interagency

committee under the control of the Leads of the Treasury Department, Office of Management and Budget, Civil Service Commission and General Accounting Office.

How did the award program originate? According to those involved in its administration, Stans established it last year, while secretary of Commerce, and donated "a small amount of money" to pay the costs of running the annual competition.

It amounted to a \$10,000 grant from the Chicago-based Stans Foundation to the Smithsonian Institution, according to Bertram Rosen, executive secretary of the joint program. Interest from the donation, he said, goes toward plaques and gold lapel pins for the winners.